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DASHNAKS ACCUSED OF TRICKERY IN CHURCH ELECTIONS -- Beirut, Ararad, 17 Jul 51

On 15 July 1951, a comic "election" was held in Tyre, Lebanon, in which the Dashnaks, through trickery and deceit, managed to place the Saint Gregory Armenian Church under the trusteeship of their own party members.

In this election, as in every other, the Dashnaks resorted to their usual methods of violence. Those patriots of the district who ventured to vote against the Dashnaks were brutally beaten by organized bands of Dashnak terrorists.

During the past 3 years, the Dashnak traitors have seized control of the Armenian churches in various districts to give their vicious activities some semblance of popular support. By dominating the religious life of the Armenians in these districts, they hope to shape the political policies of the Armenian people along lines which would serve only the interests of their Western imperialist masters.

The Ramgavar Party leaders in Beirut have contributed their share in this Dashnak "victory," not merely because they refrained from participating in the elections, but because they cast their votes in favor of the Dashnaks. This is what the Ramgavars call their new "middle of the road policy":

The Dashnak opportunists find fresh incentive in the present international atmosphere to intensify their criminal acts against Soviet Armenia and the Armenian people. But in the very near future, they will undergo a great shock. Their political bankruptcy will become evident to all. And the Armenians in dispersion will again become masters of their own destiny.

HUNCHAK ORGAN CONTINUE ATTACKS ON RAMGAVARS -- Paris, Azad Khosk, 18 Jul 51

The new Ramgavar organ in Paris, Aesor, continues along its destructive path toward the formation of an antidemocratic alliance with the Dashnaks.

Its most recent attack upon the Soviet Armenian fatherland seems to revolve around the Dashnak-created question of the Armenian Church. Aesor strives to convince the Armenian people that Echmiadzin [seat of the Catholicos, Primate of the Armenian Church] can no longer claim spiritual leadership of the Armenian nation. This sudden change in Ramgavar policy is based on the contention that the Catholicos is not free to carry on religious activities independent of Moscow's political dictates. The theme is not new. Only its chanterers have changed. The Ramgavars now foresee a "resolution of the Armenian Question." They assert with typical Dashnak boldness: "We must be prepared for the day when the Armenian Question is brought up for final settlement. Of necessity, that day will come, just as the day of reconciliation between East and West will be realized." Today, the Ramgavars are shutting their eyes to US aggression and imperialistic policies while they regard the USSR with suspicion.

As is well known, the Turkish-Soviet alliance of 1920 was not directed against any other power but was implemented to guarantee the security of the newly born Armenian SSR. But the same cannot be said for the Dashnak-Ramgavar-supported military treaty between Turkey and the US.

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Furthermore, the Ramgavar organ, Aesor, indicates that it, too, has adopted the Dashnak slogan of a "united, free, and independent Armenia." This is another radical change in Ramgavar policy. Aesor has, indeed, lost touch with reality. No more does it demand that the Armenian territories held by Turkey be returned to the Armenian SSR.

In effect, the new "middle of the road" policy of the Ramgavars is nothing more than an expression of submission to the Western imperialists. Since the day of East-West "reconciliation" will come after the two mighty forces clash, say the Ramgavars, then, the sooner the clash comes, the sooner the Armenian case will be resolved. This is warmongering, pure and unadulterated.

But the Armenian people have already achieved their freedom and independence. Fortunately, our people have chosen the path they will follow and will not allow these Ramgavar deviationists to threaten the existence of our native land.

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